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Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

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Thursday, 12 October 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Delattre/Mrs. Gueguen	(France)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Zambrana
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Moustafa
	Ethiopia	Ms. Guadey
	Italy	Mr. Lambertini
	Japan	Mr. Kawamura
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Sweden	Mr. Skau
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Ms. Sison
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli

Agenda

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/840)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2017/840)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite His Excellency Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/840, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

I now give the floor to Ms. Honoré Braithwaite.

Ms. Honoré Braithwaite (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank France for convening today's meeting on the situation in Haiti in its capacity as President of the Security Council,

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the presence in the Council of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Haiti.

(*spoke in English*)

I would like to thank all Council members for their unwavering support to Haiti's stabilization process and the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) since the Mission's establishment by resolution 1542 (2004), adopted in April 2004.

When MINUSTAH was established, Haiti was in a profound state of instability and widespread political violence, and a climate of lawlessness and impunity had affected the everyday life of millions of Haitians. State authority was weak and limited to parts of the capital, Port-au-Prince, with the three branches of power either non-functional or non-existent and a national police that was overwhelmed by the multiple threats to public order and the rule of law.

Today, 13 and a half years later, on the eve of MINUSTAH's closure and transition to a smaller peacekeeping Mission, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), on 15 October, Haiti has a very different outlook, despite the many challenges still facing the country. The Haitian people enjoy a considerable degree of security and greater stability; political violence has diminished considerably; and armed gangs no longer hold the population hostage, also thanks to the work of the National Police, now 14,000 strong, which has grown significantly in numbers and capacity. All three branches of power are in place, with the executive and legislative branches restored to full functioning, while the Superior Council of the Judiciary, created for the first time in 2012, remains in need of long-term fixes to allow it to fully play its role as the guardian of an independent and impartial judicial system.

These democratic institutions are complemented by the directly elected officials now in place at all levels of governance, for the first time in 10 years, denoting real progress in the implementation of the constitutional governance system. At the heart of these achievements stood the creation of stable political conditions, without which none of the aforementioned would have been possible.

There is no doubt that those achievements, and many others that I have not mentioned, while significant, are only initial steps. Tireless efforts will be required not only by the Haitian authorities but by all Haitian actors to consolidate these gains, ensure continued political stability, sustain and reinforce the functioning of the democratic institutions and further improve their delivery in the interest of the Haitian people, with the continued support of Haiti's international friends and partners.

It is against this background that I am encouraged by the overall direction that the current Administration has adopted. President Jovenel Moise has reiterated his determination to transform and modernize the State to better serve the people and has taken initial steps to translate this overarching objective into deliverables, especially through the launch and expansion of the Government's flagship development programme, the Caravan of Change, which aims to enhance State delivery and revitalize the economy by increasing agricultural production and improving living conditions, especially in rural areas. In the same spirit, since his inauguration, the President has initiated steps towards financial austerity, spoken out against corruption and presented the contours of an institutional reform agenda aimed at enhancing political stability, while outlining ideas for a nationwide dialogue on Haiti's future.

Immediate improvements, however, have yet to be felt by the vast majority of the population, particularly in poor urban areas, and the political situation remains fragile. A little more than eight months into the presidential term, the widely contested 2017/2018 budget, stalled indirect elections and disagreements over the re-establishment of the armed forces, coupled with the known weaknesses in State institutions, as well as the absence of significant improvement in the difficult living conditions of much of the population, have reopened some divisions between the executive and some segments of the political opposition.

The reform agenda presented by the Government and its continued collaborative relations with the Legislature, which are necessary for the adoption of a package of key legislation, are promising signs for further progress. However, amid a climate of widespread economic grievances and strained relations between the executive branch and the political opposition, the maintenance of stability in the longer run may depend on the ability and commitment of the Administration to move more swiftly in undertaking concrete action and implementing the promised reforms on the basis of dialogue with different sectors of society and under a unified national vision.

In this context, and with a view to consolidating political stability, a steady pace of concrete steps towards a broad institutional reform process is key. Such a reform process has to aim at the strengthening of the country's democratic structures and should be based on a dialogue that adds the voices of other national sectors, including political parties, both pro-Government and opposition. But these voices also need to be open to political consensus, which is vital for any reform process.

I am convinced that the country can still make full use of the current window of opportunity created by the stabilization efforts of the past decade, including with the support provided through MINUSTAH and the near-completion of the 2015-2017 electoral process. It is, however, of utmost importance that the divisions that have re-emerged be addressed so as to prevent any relapse into political instability. The most urgent task confronting Haiti today consists of ensuring the conditions for continued stability, thereby enabling long-term socioeconomic development. It would be difficult to meet these conditions without the rule of law and human rights for all Haitian citizens; without a fully functioning and independent judiciary and a non-politicized Haitian National Police; and without the independent management of other governance institutions provided for by the Constitution, including a Constitutional Council, a Permanent Electoral Council and councils established through indirect elections, from which all Haitians can benefit.

MINUJUSTH becomes operational four days from now and stands ready to play an effective role, alongside the United Nations country team, in supporting the consolidation of the country's stability, including through support for the implementation of institutional reforms to bolster the rule of law and human rights and enhance governance. I trust that, as was the case for MINUSTAH, the Haitian people and Government will extend their cooperation and partnership to MINUJUSTH in the next two years. The timely adoption of a legal framework regulating MINUJUSTH's status will be an important step in that regard. The coordinated support that the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes can provide, alongside the Special Envoy for Haiti, appointed by the Secretary-General on 20 June to assist Haiti in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including in the area of health, as well as in water and sanitation, to eliminate the transmission of cholera, will also be key in supporting the country on its path towards sustainable development. The United Nations will continue to make every effort to assist the Government in alleviating the suffering caused by the cholera epidemic.

This being my last meeting as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSTAH, please allow me to thank the Secretary-General for the

trust that he placed in me, and the Security Council and all Member States and international partners, including police- and troop-contributing countries, the Group of Friends, and the diplomatic corps and the Core Group on Haiti, for the guidance and support that they have provided throughout my tenure and that of my predecessors.

The achievements of the United Nations in Haiti would not have been possible without my colleagues in MINUSTAH and in the United Nations country team. I am deeply indebted to them and thank them for their dedication to the work in Haiti, their robust counsel and genuine commitment. It has been an honour to serve under the flag of the United Nations and to support Haiti and the Haitian people in the creation of conditions that have ultimately allowed the Council to decide on the closure on 15 October of MINUSTAH and on the transition to MINUJUSTH.

(*spoke in French*)

My most heartfelt thanks go to the Haitian people and Government for their continued cooperation and confidence. It has been an honour to support this beautiful country and its entire population in the fully Haitian process of consolidating peace and democracy.

(*spoke in English*)

Looking ahead, I have no doubt that, under the leadership of the Haitian authorities and guided by the aspirations of the Haitian people for political stability, the rule of law and prosperity, the continued partnership between Haiti, the international community and the United Nations will contribute to the sustainability of the progress achieved during the past 13 years in Haiti's stabilization and democratization process.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite for her briefing and would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for her exemplary commitment and the quality of her work and that of her entire team in the service of peace and stability in Haiti.

I now give the floor to the members of the Security Council.

Ms. Sison (United States of America): I would like to welcome Ambassador Régis and Special Representative Honoré to the Council today.

Back in April, the Security Council voted unanimously to withdraw the military component of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Mission had been deployed since 2004, and the vote reflected our recognition of the progress Haiti had made towards stabilization and a return to democratic order. This week marks a turning point. MINUSTAH is winding down. In just a few days a new Mission, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), will launch, devoting its efforts where they are most needed — supporting the rule of law, contributing to the continuing development of the Haitian National Police and protecting human rights.

We believe the transition sets a strong example of how United Nations peacekeeping missions can and should change as a political situation evolves. The new Mission embodies the core principles of success that we have developed as part of our peacekeeping review, including making sure that the Mission's mandated tasks and overall concept are consistent with the political realities on the ground. We believe that MINUJUSTH's staffing, including formed police units, individual police officers and corrections officers, as well as civilian experts in the rule of law, human rights, political affairs, gender, conduct and discipline and other key areas, will contribute significantly to the justice-sector priorities that the international community and the Government of Haiti have identified. The mentoring and advising by the United Nations of the Haitian National Police will continue to be a key factor in the Haitian National Police's ability to ensure public order and provide security for the Haitian people. MINUJUSTH's focus on addressing pretrial detention and other corrections-related issues will also be important.

When peacekeeping works well we see countries develop their own capacities to protect their citizens and we see countries re-establish domestic political processes. MINUSTAH has contributed to both those goals in Haiti, and for that we salute the leadership of Special Representative Honoré, who has served in Port-au-Prince since 2013. We know that the Secretary-General's next Special Representative will be just as committed to working closely with the Government of Haiti and the Haitian people to achieve the important mandate of the MINUJUSTH successor Mission. I would also like to take a moment to recognize the troop- and police-contributing countries and the thousands of men and women who have served in MINUSTAH over the years for their commitment to the Mission.

Finally, the support of MINUSTAH to the Government and the people of Haiti has resulted in the strengthening of State institutions — and their establishment, in some cases — that are key to ensuring the conduct of Haiti's constitutional and political processes. Haiti's security, political and development agenda can be shaped only by Haitians themselves. It will therefore be critical to ensure that Haiti takes this window of opportunity to advance dialogue on the additional measures and reforms required to consolidate the security and stabilization gains of the past few years in order to strengthen its institutions so that they can continue to meet the people's needs.

Together with the international community, the United States looks forward to maintaining its close partnership with the Haitian Government and people in order to ensure the country's continued stability, democratic development and future prosperity.

Mr. Lambertini (Italy) (*spoke in French*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ms. Sandra Honoré for her briefing and for her commitment all these years as Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). That has been one of the keys to the Mission's success, and we should acknowledge it. I would also like to welcome the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations.

Italy associates itself with the statement to be delivered later by the observer of the European Union.

The Security Council took the decision to initiate a transition from MINUSTAH to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which is focused on Haiti's current needs — strengthening the Haitian National Police, justice and the rule of law, and promoting and defending human rights. The Council's decision reflects the historical changes that have occurred in Haiti with the re-establishment of constitutional order, the revitalization of the National Assembly and the Council's confidence in the new Government's programme. This progress paves the way for the consolidation of a stable democracy that can meet the major challenges that the country is facing. We urge Haiti not to lose this window of opportunity to launch the reforms it will need to take its future into its own hands.

What needs to be done now is to establish a vision for a shared effort and put it into action, a vision based on accessible, fair justice for everyone, a functional electoral system and a firmly established rule of law that ensures that all can enjoy their fundamental rights and have equitable access to development. We urge the authorities to engage in an inclusive national dialogue with all sectors of Haitian society with a view to restoring their full trust in the country's institutions and engaging them in the reform process. In that regard, women's participation in the country's political, social and economic life must be assured. We encourage the Government to take specific measures to develop and increase their role.

The maintenance of security is a fundamental precondition for the implementation of this process. The enormous progress made by the Haitian National Police, with MINUSTAH's help, represents an essential starting point, but its strengthening and professionalization, and the resources that entails, must now be a top priority. These are objectives that are at the core of MINUJUSTH's assistance mandate, but the primary responsibility for them rests with the Haitian authorities. In that regard, Haiti is on the way to becoming a model for future action by the Council on issues of transition and stabilization by strengthening the elements of peacekeeping missions related to training and organizing police forces, with the goal of building and consolidating national capacities for maintaining peace and preventing conflict.

We believe that national ownership is essential to every peace and stabilization effort, and Haiti is no exception. We believe firmly that with the tools made available to it by the Council, Haiti will be able to move gradually towards a full transfer of powers to the Haitian authorities. There will also have to be an open dialogue and close cooperation with MINUJUSTH, and we urge MINUJUSTH, when it is implementing its mandate, to use its political influence and good offices to the maximum as it implements its mandate. In that regard, we look forward to seeing a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of Mission appointed as soon as possible.

Since it is very important to ensure a responsible transition, we would like to emphasize the role that the United Nations will continue to play in assisting the country. We reiterate our thanks to MINUSTAH for its vital contribution to maintaining law and order and for intervening at critical and urgent times in the country over the years.

We appreciate the integrated planning efforts of the Mission and the country team and encourage them to continue to implement those plans so that MINUJUSTH can be operational from the beginning of its mandate. The United Nations on the ground must continue to act in a coordinated, cohesive manner with the goal of transitioning from emergency assistance to the long-term development of the country. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Italy's commitment to Haiti, which we have affirmed through our support to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund and to Special Envoy Josette Sheeran, who has been appointed to implement the new strategy for eradicating the epidemic.

Mr. Zambrana (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her informative briefing on the latest developments in the Republic of Haiti and the activities of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to her and her whole team for her work as Head of the Mission. We would also like to thank the representative of Haiti for his presence here today.

I would first like to congratulate MINUSTAH on its work throughout the 13 years of its deployment. We appreciate its efforts to lay the groundwork for lasting stability and a better future for Haiti, and for establishing priorities aimed at ensuring a successful transition and an assessment of its work so that its progress to date can be reviewed, as the Secretary-General's latest report clearly reflects (S/2017/840). We also congratulate MINUSTAH's troops on their performance. I should note that Bolivia took part in this Mission and did so with professionalism, dedication and the gratitude of the Haitian people, which we are proud of.

Bolivia reaffirms its commitment to the present and future of the Republic of Haiti. We believe that the international community should be united in working together to support the country's economic and social development, bearing in mind the new challenges that the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will encounter in the security and rule-of-law sectors. That support must be given in consultation and coordination with the Haitian Government. In that regard, Bolivia supports Haiti's wish to switch the basis of the new Mission's mandate to Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations rather than Chapter VII, as it is currently. The mandate should also be reviewed in the light of the results and information that the Council obtained during its most recent visit to Haiti, which should serve as input for the new Mission so that when its mandate is renewed, it will be easier to understand, clearer and more specific. It should particularly be borne in mind that the Mission will be expected to accomplish a number of tasks and strategic goals over a period of two years.

However, the transition should not be a reason to disregard some fundamental and as yet unresolved issues such as those of sexual exploitation and abuse, and cholera. In that regard, we believe that the United Nations bears some responsibility towards the cholera victims in Haiti, as we have reiterated at every Council meeting on the subject of the Council and as the Special Representative mentions in paragraph 52 of the latest report. We welcome the commitment to dealing with this crisis through the Secretary-General's new approach to the fight against cholera. The victims of cholera, which has led to the deaths of some 9,600 people since 2010, should be compensated. During the Council's visit to Haiti, the people we spoke to saw this as a key topic, given the damage that the cholera crisis did to the reputation of United Nations peacekeeping operations in Haiti. It is clear that a failure on the part of the international community to meet its obligations under the new approach will significantly affect the new Mission's credibility and effectiveness. It will be important for MINUJUSTH to work on a new plan of action in that regard.

We would also like to reiterate that it is also the obligation of the international community to support the Republic of Haiti in building robust water-supply, sanitation and health-care systems in order to end the cholera crisis. We call on the Members of the United Nations as a whole to support the Secretary-General's new approach and General Assembly resolution 71/161B, adopted on 13 July, which established a trust fund for that purpose, and encourage Security Council members and all States Members of the United Nations to consolidate the fund.

With regard to sexual abuse and exploitation, we take note of the Special Representative's commitment to supporting the victims through a trust fund and to appoint a special defender in such cases. We believe those efforts should continue on the principle of zero tolerance and that those responsible for sexual abuse and exploitation should be punished. We should not

omit to express our concern about the problem of children who are fatherless as a result of sexual abuse.

Concerning the Government of Haiti's progress on the political front, we commend the designation of members for 140 municipal assemblies. We urge it to appoint a replacement for the Ombudsman and to continue to strengthen Haitian institutions in order to ensure the rule of law and firm up the foundations that will enable it to achieve greater political and social cohesion and to tackle the country's current socioeconomic and development challenges. We also welcome the Government's work in establishing a permanent Electoral Council, calling on candidates for the Superior Council of the Judiciary, inviting the opposition parties to dialogue in order to discuss ways of improving the functioning of political parties and working on a road map for the security, justice, energy, education, health and farming sectors. Those advances clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to democracy and stability, as does the progress on the Caravan of Change and the joint legislative agenda. We also commend the progress that has been made in the security sector, particularly the growing capacity of the Haitian National Police and its infrastructure. We will continue to encourage efforts in that area with a view to achieving the goals of its 2017-2021 strategic development plan

In conclusion, Bolivia recognizes the national ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti for all aspects of their country's development, and encourages MINUJUSTH to coordinate with the Government in providing it with logistical and technical experience while respecting its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

Mr. Hickey (United Kingdom): I would like to thank Special Representative Honoré for her briefing. As the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) draws to a close after 13 years in Haiti, I would like to join others in thanking her for her dedicated service. I also want to pay tribute to all who have been involved with the Mission and its work — the civilian staff, troops and police who have served in it and in particular the 186 men and women who have died in MINUSTAH's service.

When we compare Haiti today to the Haiti of 2004, MINUSTAH's legacy is clear. There is less violence, the security environment is more stable, the Haitian National Police is more effective and a more democratic political culture has emerged, accompanied by transitions of power. Of course, we cannot be complacent. The gains made must be protected. The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) represents a transitional stage for future United Nations support for Haiti. The Haiti of today still needs help to ensure that its police will soon be able stand alone, that justice institutions will soon function effectively and that human rights are afforded the protection and priority they require.

While we note that a status of forces agreement has not yet been signed and urge the Government to do so as soon as possible, we are nevertheless pleased that the transition to MINUJUSTH is on track. We must ensure that the Mission has access to the most appropriate personnel and equipment and that this is underpinned by high-quality training, skilled, robust leadership and clear accountability for underperformance and misconduct. If the United Nations is to maximize the impact of its support to Haiti, MINUJUSTH must work closely with the United Nations country team, which has a critical role to play in sustaining peace. For example, through its support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations country team will be able to bring a long-term developmental focus to the major challenges that Haiti faces today. Joint planning, analysis and capacity-mapping exercises will be needed from day one so that responsibilities are handed over sequentially well ahead of MINUJUSTH's closure. Indeed, Haiti does not need an indefinite peacekeeping operation. The planned exit strategy to guide a two-year transition from MINUJUSTH to the United Nations country team and also, critically, Haiti's own national institutions marks an opportunity for the United Nations to set precedents for peacekeeping missions around the world.

We regret that the good work of MINUSTAH was tainted by the spectre of cholera and sexual exploitation and abuse. Here, too, there are lessons to be learned. The new approach to cholera has helped to put Haiti on a path towards eradication, but this came too long after the damage had been done. As for sexual exploitation at the hands of peacekeepers, Haiti's tragic experience demonstrates why we cannot tolerate any backsliding on the commitments made through resolution 2272 (2016).

There is much that the United Nations can do better. But the single most important guarantor of the progress achieved in Haiti lies with its own leadership. The gap

left by MINUSTAH is not primarily for MINUJUSTH to plug but for Haiti's Government, politicians and institutions to begin to fill. For example, security cannot be achieved unless the Government protects the independence of Haiti's police and gives them the resources they need rather than diverting money towards the creation of new armed forces. Justice cannot be delivered until parliamentarians pass legislation critical to empowering the judiciary. Human rights cannot be protected without proper institutionalization within the State, and pronouncements of progress will continue to ring hollow until we see more women empowered as political leaders and fewer becoming victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

In conclusion, today we are all witnessing Haiti turn a corner. Days of violence and instability have begun to fade. The ultimate thanks go to the people of Haiti. Without question, they have displayed remarkable resilience. But the courageous efforts of MINUSTAH have also played their part. We salute their successes and look forward to continued assistance by the United Nations to the Haitian people.

Mr. Rosselli (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to thank the Secretary-General for his report of 5 October on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2017/840) and the Special Representative, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing.

Uruguay associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

As we are only three days away from the closure of MINUSTAH, I would like to thank all those who in one way or other have participated in the Mission. Men and women of various nationalities, military and police officers as well as civilians have since 2004 all been serving the same cause: that of bringing peace and stability to the people of Haiti. Many of them have done this at the risk of their own lives. We remember all of them without exception and pay them heartfelt tribute. We regularly refer to them — from Special Representative of the Secretary-General Representative Hédi Annabi to Principal Deputy Representative Luiz Carlos da Costa and the dozens of other members of the Mission — but very rarely give their names.

Today I would like to mention by name the eight Uruguayans who lost their lives serving in Haiti: Corporal Leandro Acosta, Air Force Captain José Ignacio Larrosa, First Lieutenant Santiago Hernández, aviation engineers José Pastor, Enrique Montiel, Néstor Morales and Gigi Medina, and Lieutenant Colonel Gonzalo Martinere.

I would also like to express my most sincere thanks to Ms. Honoré for her leadership as Head of MINUSTAH and for her outstanding and tireless efforts to bring about stability in Haiti, thanks that I wish to extend to all those who preceded her in that post.

The closure of MINUSTAH provides us with the opportunity to reflect on the manner in which it was managed. As with all human endeavours, there have been positives and negatives. In the 13 years since 2004, MINUSTAH helped to ensure the conditions necessary to enable Haiti to return to democracy; addressed the difficult humanitarian situations brought on by natural disasters; worked with the Government to strengthen its institutions; and helped to strengthen and professionalize the Haitian National Police and to restore and maintain the rule of law, including through the promotion and protection of human rights. Uruguay participated in these efforts from the outset, in 2004, up until 15 April, the date on which its troops ceased operations.

Today we can see the results of this joint effort, as MINUSTAH is leaving the country in a much better condition than it was when the Mission arrived. We can say, therefore, that the balance sheet is a positive one and that the people and the Government of Haiti have benefited from the presence of MINUSTAH over these 13 years.

However, we would have liked the current situation in the country to be more encouraging. Despite the efforts made by the Haitian authorities to consolidate democracy and stability in the country; despite the commitment of President Jovenel Moise to making progress in priority areas, as reflected in his Caravan of Change initiative; and notwithstanding the progress made in increasing the capacity and enhancing the professionalism of the Haitian National Police, a number of areas of concern remain.

The socioeconomic situation in the country continues to be fragile, and the population remains vulnerable. Progress in the areas of the rule of law and human rights is very slow. In the judicial field, progress has been limited. We continue to see long-term preventive detentions, and the prisons are overcrowded. The level of the protection and promotion of the human rights of women is far from satisfactory. Transparency

International's 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index places Haiti 159th of the 176 countries on the list.

Despite the progress that has been made in fighting the cholera epidemic, cholera-related deaths continue, and the percentage of the population with access to drinking water and sanitation systems remains very low.

We share the concern of various sectors of Haitian society — parliamentarians, leaders of political parties, defenders of human rights and security experts — about the process of remobilizing the armed forces. We believe that Haiti should concentrate all of its efforts and resources on areas of priority development and on those initiatives that will generate direct benefits for the Haitian population and strengthen the institutional structure of the country.

We cannot overlook the expenses involved in the return of the armed forces in terms of investment and operational costs, at a time when the country has so many pressing needs and the risk of external aggression seems low.

We believe that efforts should be focused on continuing to strengthen and train the Haitian National Police, so that it is able to fully meet its commitment to ensure national security. National and international efforts have so far been geared to this end, and this is how we should continue in future, so as not to jeopardize the achievements made in the area of security in the 13 years of MINUSTAH's presence.

We are pleased that, with the help of MINUSTAH, the Haitian National Police has continued to build its capacity to ensure public order and provide security to the population and that the security situation in the country is relatively stable and has not been affected by the withdrawal of MINUSTAH.

We believe that Haiti still needs the support and assistance of the United Nations and the international community. However, we also believe that those efforts should focus on areas that are key to strengthening the country's institutions, so that Haiti can make progress on the road to development and prosperity and leave behind its need for constant assistance, which tends to perpetuate itself. In that regard, we believe that the role of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will be essential. With the joint transition plan of MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, MINUJUSTH should be able to help the Government strengthen its rule-of-law institutions while continuing to provide support to the Haitian National Police and promote the development of law enforcement. It should also participate in monitoring, reporting on and analysing the human rights situation, in accordance with its mandate. For that it will need to count on firm political will and a commitment to action on the part of the Haitian authorities. We hope that will be the case to the benefit of the people of Haiti, who deserve that commitment from their leadership.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré for her briefing. I would also like to express our deep gratitude to her and her team and, through her, to all the personnel of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), whose mandate is ending in a few days. I especially thank the United Nations troops who have made great sacrifices to achieve security and stability in Haiti.

Egypt welcomes the progress that Haiti has made in the past year on both the political and security fronts, and the relative stability that has been achieved despite all Haiti's challenges. International support, provided mainly by the United Nations, has played a vital role in achieving stability in Haiti, and it is therefore incumbent on us to continue to provide support in the next phase so as to build and sustain peace, as the representative of the United Kingdom has said. Since the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will start its work in the next few days, I would like to stress the following points.

First, MINUJUSTH should focus on building national institutions, especially rule-of-law institutions and the national police, in accordance with the country's needs and requirements. It should not use its resources for non-traditional or controversial tasks. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work that has been done to develop the National Police, as well as President Moise's efforts to build a national army.

Secondly, we call for enhanced coordination between MINUJUSTH and the United Nations country team, which will help to ensure that United Nations resources are used as efficiently as possible. It will be important to develop the country team's collective capabilities so that it will be able to meet the requirements of the next phase, including realizing national development plans in the areas of infrastructure, health and education and providing related training, as well as improving legislation with a view to attracting domestic and

foreign private-sector investment, especially in the areas of agriculture and tourism. In that regard, we would like to propose that the Government of Haiti consider forming a partnership with the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission with the aim of facilitating comprehensive and integrated support to Haiti on the political, development and social fronts while ensuring national ownership. We should build an international forum that enables Haiti to engage with its international partners and follow up on progress at the international level on building and sustaining peace.

Thirdly, the United Nations has a moral and a legal responsibility to support the efforts of the Haitian authorities to combat the cholera epidemic. Both MINUJUSTH and the United Nations country team must therefore have the necessary capacity to support the fight against the cholera epidemic. My delegation welcomes and supports the three-dimensional strategy developed by United Nations Special Envoy Josette Sheeran and discussed in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/840). We also welcome the efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse, which have resulted in a decrease in such crimes, as well as the Secretary-General's efforts to apply a zero-tolerance policy to such crimes at every level of the United Nations. We also call for continued investigation of crimes committed in the past in Haiti, with a view to fighting impunity.

Fourthly, on 29 August, during Egypt's presidency, the Security Council held an open debate (see S/PV.8033) that addressed the importance of reviewing peacekeeping operations and enhancing peacekeeping missions' performance. To that end, I urge the Council to identify the lessons learned from MINUSTAH and determine the factors that ensured the Mission's success. It will also be important to monitor the transition from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH. That will enable the Council to refer to lessons learned in similar cases when missions' mandates are about to end.

The peacekeeping phase in Haiti is nearing its end. The efforts of the international community and the United Nations should now focus on building and sustaining peace during Haiti's next phase, especially since the country has a clear national vision of priorities that requires support and coordination among the various components of those efforts.

Mr. Umarov (Kazakhstan): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her comprehensive briefing. As the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) approaches its end, we salute her invaluable role in bringing stability to Haiti and acknowledge our deep appreciation to her, the entire MINUSTAH team and the troop- and police-contributing countries for successfully completing such a long and challenging mission.

Kazakhstan recognizes the significant contributions that MINUSTAH and other United Nations institutions have made in Haiti in the past several years to the effort to achieve stabilization, promote the rule of law, ensure good governance and support the local judiciary and law enforcement. MINUSTAH has been particularly instrumental in creating a secure and stable environment, participating in the reconstruction efforts after the 2010 earthquake and supporting Haitian authorities with reforms and institutional development.

We welcome the positive steps taken by the Haitian Government towards restoring democratic institutions and establishing economic recovery, which has focused on agriculture, infrastructure and human capital. Kazakhstan believes that President Moise and his Government will be able to overcome their current challenges and ensure stability and constitutional order, as well as complying with Haiti's international obligations. We fully agree with the observation in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2017/840) that it is critical to ensure that Haiti makes full use of the window of opportunity created by the current relative stability to advance dialogue, with a view to consolidating the security and stabilization gains that have been made over the past few years, making for greater social and political cohesion and reinforcing State institutions so that they can meet the needs of the Haitian people. As Mr. Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, outlined during the Council's meeting on peacekeeping reforms on 20 September (see S/PV.8051), our country fully supports the shift from conflict resolution to prevention and sustaining peace, together with structural changes and the new configuration of United Nations entities.

The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is supposed to be a role model for future missions, with a particular focus on the nexus of security and development. With a view to consolidating security and stability, MINUJUSTH

should focus on building the capacities of the Haitian National Police, making serious efforts to combat impunity, ensuring the independence of the judiciary and establishing a transparent and efficient prison system. We urge the Government of Haiti to make sure that the Haitian National Police's strategic development plan is implemented rapidly and effectively, with help provided as required by the international community in order to ensure professional training and experience.

The human rights situation should be closely monitored. Given the unfortunate experience of misconduct in MINUSTAH, MINUJUSTH must be held accountable to the highest standards of integrity and discipline. The zero-tolerance policy on sexual abuse must be strictly enforced. It is also essential for MINUJUSTH that the United Nations country team work in a coordinated manner with the entire United Nations system, breaking down silos in order to achieve optimal results for sustainable development in Haiti. It also means that the Mission must collaborate closely with neighbouring countries and regional partners, which have made commendable contributions to investment in Haiti. There must be coordination between the various actors and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, and women and young people should be fully engaged.

Kazakhstan has already been an integral part of the international support to Haiti, making contributions to humanitarian efforts to support emergency relief and development activities following the devastating earthquake in 2010. In 2016, Kazakhstan supported the World's Innovation Pole of the Greater North of Haiti, which is aimed at establishing the infrastructure for a knowledge-based economy in Haiti. As the only Central Asian country accredited by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), we have supported two regional CARICOM projects, aimed respectively at developing water resource management in the region and institutional support for the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of CARICOM member States, including Haiti.

The issue of cholera in Haiti should remain a priority for the entire United Nations community in the coming months. Kazakhstan joins the Secretary-General's call to the international community and donors for voluntary contributions to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, as envisioned in General Assembly resolution 71/161.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Kazakhstan's firm commitment to supporting Haiti's efforts to achieve peace, progress and prosperity.

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) will officially conclude its mission and be superseded by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), thereby ushering in a new era in Haiti.

Since 2004, MINUSTAH, in the face of an earthquake, hurricanes and other hardships, has played an important role in promoting the stability and development of Haiti. More than 100 United Nations peacekeepers, including eight from China, have made the ultimate sacrifice in Haiti, and China commends and pays tribute to MINUSTAH, Special Representative Honoré and all the former Heads of the Mission for their invaluable contributions. MINUSTAH's orderly withdrawal has helped maintain a stable situation in Haiti, creating conditions conducive to MINUJUSTH's smooth deployment. China looks to MINUJUSTH, the United Nations country team and other entities to strengthen their coordination and consolidate the progress achieved by MINUSTAH, thereby making an even greater contribution to Haiti's overall stability and development.

MINUJUSTH cannot stay in Haiti indefinitely. The final solution to the question of Haiti will hinge on the efforts of the Haitian Government. Along with other relevant parties, the Government should work diligently to take on the responsibility of maintaining the country's stability and development of the country. This will entail enhancing its self-development capacities, reinforcing the rule of law, conducting constructive national dialogue, implementing the strategic development plan of the National Police for 2017-2021, ensuring stable funding and working to ensure security in the country as a whole as quickly as possible.

The humanitarian situation in Haiti remains grim. China hopes that the international community will increase its assistance so as to help Haiti eliminate cholera, improve its capabilities in food security and disaster reduction and prevention, and help provide more support to Haiti in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Kawamura (Japan): I would like to thank Ms. Sandra Honoré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for her comprehensive wrap-up briefing on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), whose mandate will successfully conclude next Sunday. Japan welcomes the outline of MINUSTAH's achievements in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2017/840) and pays tribute to Special Representative Honoré, her predecessors, their teams, the Secretariat and, particularly, the troop- and police-contributing countries for their tireless support to Haiti over the past 13 years.

Japan's participation in MINUSTAH was also an important step in its history of contributing to United Nations peacekeeping.

We deployed approximately 2,200 Self-Defence Forces personnel to the Mission beginning in 2010 to support reconstruction following the earthquake. Those efforts included training Haitians in the use of heavy machinery, as well as technology transfer. I was particularly encouraged by a report that I received from a staff member who joined the Mission and provided training to young Haitians in the operation of the heavy machinery. In it, he wrote that the most memorable moment for him was when the young Haitian trainees expressed their joy with every part of their body on the day they passed the qualifying exams for their operating licenses. We have been encouraged by the Haitian display of ownership in rebuilding their country based on that report. Japan is proud of its Self-Defence Forces' success in helping lay the groundwork for stability, and we have built on those experiences during subsequent deployments.

Japan welcomes the continued implementation of the joint MINUSTAH-United Nations country team transition plan, as well as the progress in efforts to ensure that the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will be operational on the first day. We join the Secretary-General in calling on the Government to sign the status-of-forces agreement by 16 October. We look forward to working with MINUJUSTH and the Government to strengthen the rule of law and institutions, and further advance the development and professionalization of Haiti's police in line with the 2017-2021 strategic development plan. Haiti is on the path towards further consolidating its democracy, national unity and stability. We commend the efforts of the Government and the people of Haiti to that end, and those efforts must continue.

However, as was evident during the Council's visit in June, enormous peacebuilding and development needs remain. As the Secretary-General stressed in his report, there are ongoing challenges in the areas of governance, human rights, gender equality, judicial reform and institution-building. We must support Haiti now so as to ensure its self-reliance in future. The role of the international community and the United Nations country team will be crucial. With the ownership of the Haitian authorities, Japan will continue to support the development and improvement of basic social services, as well as post-disaster reconstruction.

We have focused a great deal on alleviating the suffering caused by the devastating cholera outbreak. Japan has provided more than $9 million through UNICEF and other international organizations since 2010, with a focus on the construction and improvement of water-, sanitation- and hygiene-related facilities. We will continue our support, especially through preventive social, economic and public-health measures and poverty reduction, as well as resilient and high-quality infrastructure.

Haiti has made commendable progress under challenging conditions, but continued United Nations efforts and the attention of the Security Council continue to be necessary. Japan looks forward to working with the international community to ensure that recent improvements lead to lasting progress in the lives of the Haitian people.

Mr. Iliichev (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti Sandra Honoré for her presentation of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/840), as well as her assessment of the situation in the country on the eve of the transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

We agree that since the adoption of resolution 2350 (2017) in April, there have been positive developments in the country, made possible thanks to the efforts of the Government and the President, with the support of the international community.

We are pleased to note that the Secretary-General's report indicates that the withdrawal of the military component and the reduction of United Nations police personnel have not negatively affected the security situation. Nevertheless, the statistics provided by the

report pertaining to crime on the island continue to be a cause for serious concern. Despite the improvements in certain indicators, the Haitian National Police, supported by Blue Helmets, should continue to consider that to be a matter of the highest priority as one of the key components for ultimately normalizing life in the country. We hope that the timely and coherent implementation of the 2017-2021 strategic development plan for the national police will contribute to that.

We have carefully reviewed the information in the report concerning the progress made in transitioning from the Stabilization Mission to the Mission for Justice Support, which will begin operating on 16 October. With respect to delegating responsibilities to the Mission and the country team, we believe that, while supporting the Government of Haiti in the various areas of governance, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator should be guided by the main provisions of the mandate that had been given to the Stabilization Mission, as well as by the primary principle of national ownership. That also applies to the new Mission. Its conscientious support is extremely important for the Government, which should become increasingly independent every day, in terms of both defining its priorities and implementing peacebuilding tasks in Haiti.

In that regard, we fully agree with the conclusion of the report that programmes in the areas of security, policy and development must be framed by the Government and be based on the views of the population. Moreover, of no less importance, all national stakeholders should have a sense of shared responsibility for sustaining peace. The top priority of national ownership, with the support of the international community where absolutely necessary, is confirmed not only in the part of the report concerning the legacy of the Stabilization Mission but also by experience, and one of the most striking examples of that is in the neighbouring country of Colombia.

In conclusion, we would like once again to express our support for the Government and the people of Haiti, which is on the path to stability and prosperity while overcoming not only internal disagreements but also the devastating consequences of the natural disasters of September, namely, Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The Caribbean region has historically been vulnerable to a complex natural environment. In order to overcome the environmental risks more expeditiously, a strong Government and a cohesive society are necessary, which through joint efforts will allow for restoring, building and strengthening Haiti's potential.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Ms. Sandra Honoré and all the previous Heads of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti for their contribution to the progress achieved by the host country with the support of the international community.

Mr. Ciss (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I would like to join others in thanking Special Representative of the Secretary-General Sandra Honoré for her comprehensive briefing and in welcoming the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti.

In a few days, on 15 October, we will mark the official closing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the opening of the new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), pursuant to resolution 2350 (2017), of 13 April 2017.

Clearly this new chapter in the United Nations presence in Haiti, which is about to begin, is a great illustration of the significant progress achieved by the Government and the people of Haiti with the support of the international community and, above all, the United Nations, which made possible the election of President Jovenel Moise, the return to constitutional order, the improved security situation and the resumption of a normal political life, which we nevertheless hope will further be improved through an enhanced political dialogue, which is necessary for the strengthening of democratic institutions.

It is important to note that since then, in order to improve the living conditions of the Haitian people — particularly those in rural areas — and also to build the country's resilience to frequent natural disasters and lay the groundwork for sustainable development, the new authorities have been actively implementing reforms in all areas, including socioeconomic development, through the launch of the flagship Caravan of Change programme, which has intensified and expanded to several of the country's regions.

We believe that upon review, MINUSTAH can be proud of the work it has accomplished, despite the difficulties posed by cases of sexual exploitation and abuse and the outbreak of the cholera epidemic. The Mission was deployed in 2004 in a politically very

unstable environment with widespread violence, yet 13 years later it has been able, alongside the Haitian Government and people, to help lay the foundations of lasting stability, better security and a future that Haitians can glimpse with a sense of optimism.

My delegation would therefore like to once again pay well-deserved tribute to Ms. Honoré, Head of MINUSTAH, as well as to all the Mission's personnel and the troop- and police-contributing countries, for helping the Haitian people. Nevertheless, we all recognize that many challenges will still need to be addressed in order to enable Haiti to consolidate the progress made, which remains fragile. In that regard and in terms of security, we are hopeful that MINUJUSTH will help to put greater emphasis on building the capacity of and training the Haitian National Police so that it can improve its professionalization and achieve the objectives set out in its 2017-2021 strategic development plan, following the significant progress already made.

Similarly, we are confident that with the support of the new Mission, control and accountability mechanisms will be strengthened, the process of legislative reform will be completed, and the entities that promote and support human rights will be strengthened so as to allow them to conduct their work effectively. Given its ambitious mission, MINUJUSTH deserves the full support of the Security Council, hence the support and confidence that my delegation wishes to express to the women and men who will have the inspiring task of fulfilling its mandate.

At the same time, my delegation calls on the international community to remain mobilized to confront the cholera epidemic that continues to plague Haiti. That can be done by supporting the 10-year Government plan to eliminate cholera in Haiti, as well as through the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti (resolution 71/161), which has just been adopted by the General Assembly.

Senegal urges the States Members of the United Nations to work collectively, in close collaboration with the Haitian authorities and especially with the victims, to effectively implement that new approach. My country welcomes the three-pronged strategy outlined by Mrs. Josette Sheeran, the new Special Envoy for Haiti, which aims to continue to contain the epidemic, mobilize additional resources and, above all, learn from this painful experience so as to improve United Nations interventions around the world.

Ms. Guadey (Ethiopia): Today marks the end of an important chapter with the completion of the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the beginning of another significant chapter, with the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). We thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her briefing on the latest situation in Haiti and for the steps taken to implement the withdrawal of MINUSTAH and ensure a smooth transition to the new Mission.

Over the past 13 years, MINUSTAH has played an important role in ensuring security and stability, restoring the rule of law and promoting national dialogue and institution-building in Haiti. It also supported recovery efforts after the 2010 earthquake and the devastating impact of six major hurricanes, although its image was tarnished by its handling of the cholera outbreak. We realize that there is now a new approach to deal with the issue and address the suffering of the victims. It is important that the international community support the Haitian Government in its efforts to eliminate the disease.

We welcome the continued progress made in Haiti in consolidating its democracy and institutional stability, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/840). We also take note of the progress made in the overall security situation in the country, which remains relatively stable. As we mark the end of MINUSTAH's mandate, we recognize its contribution in that regard.

Nevertheless, Haiti continues to face enormous challenges and vulnerabilities. There is therefore a need to take decisive steps towards creating greater social and political cohesion and reinforcing State institutions so as to sustain the gains made in recent years. The conduct of a successful national dialogue to address socioeconomic grievances and to bridge communication between the Government and other stakeholders in the country would be very significant in forging a common vision and ensuring greater stability and development.

The sustained and coordinated engagement of all bilateral and international partners is critical to securing sufficient and timely assistance for the sustainable development of Haiti in a manner that respects its sovereignty. We hope that Ms. Josette Sheeran will

build the necessary partnership with a wide range of stakeholders to support the work of the United Nations in Haiti.

The establishment of MINUJUSTH is indeed very important to consolidate peace by strengthening the institutions of justice and the rule of law, as well as supporting the institutional and operational capacity of the Haitian National Police. We appreciate the work that has been done to ensure a smooth transition to MINUJUSTH, in line with resolution 2350 (2017). We also recognize regional and subregional organizations, in particular the Organization of American States, the Union of South American Nations and the Caribbean Community for their important roles in the process of the stabilization and reconstruction of Haiti.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation to Ms. Sandra Honoré for her dedicated service and to all departing MINUSTAH civilian staff and uniformed personnel for their steadfast commitment and contribution in carrying out the Mission's mandate. Ethiopia is pleased to have made a very modest contribution through the deployment of police personnel. I wish to conclude by once again reiterating our solidarity with the brotherly people and Government of Haiti as they continue to strive to consolidate the progress made in recent years and address the multiple challenges that their nation is facing.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing and for her dedicated service. In just a few days' time, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will take over from MINUSTAH. That will testify to both the successful completion of MINUSTAH's mandate and our readiness to move towards a new form of the United Nations presence in the country, one that is better adapted to the requirements and conditions on the ground.

We would like to commend in particular the important role that MINUSTAH has played in ensuring stability and security during particularly difficult times for Haiti, such as the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in 2010. The Mission was also there assisting Haitians in arranging the latest elections and providing urgent aid after Hurricane Matthew. Its contribution to strengthening the capacity of State institutions, in particular the Haitian National Police, is second to none. In that light, Ukraine pays special tribute to all of the brave men and women who have served in the Mission over the past 13 years.

We are pleased that the country has overcome numerous challenges and difficulties and returned to a constitutional order based on the will of the voters. At the same time, as the Secretary-General rightly stated in his recent report (S/2017/840), the country should waste no time in making full use of the current window of opportunity. It is critical to advance dialogue among all political stakeholders so as to ensure stability and security, along with further democratic consolidation.

We fully support the Government's calls for broader unity as a prerequisite for moving forward with the reform process, ensuring respect for human rights, combating criminality and sexual and gender-based violence, putting an end to impunity and providing for accountability. In that regard, MINUSTAH should provide the crucial support needed to advance those important transformations and consolidate the progress achieved. We have full confidence that MINUJUSTH will also deliver effectively on the mandated tasks, such as strengthening the rule of law, further supporting the development of the Haitian National Police and engaging in human rights monitoring and reporting. However, in order to ensure the success of the mission, the commitment of the Haitian authorities will be essential.

The recent report of the Secretary-General highlighted the gains made over the years in developing the capacity of the Haitian National Police. We welcome the adoption of the new strategic development plan of the National Police covering the period up until 2021. At the same time, further prioritization of the Haitian National Police's build-up is essential, both for the Government and for MINUJUSTH. Taking note of the Government's decision to re-establish the armed forces, we share the idea that such an initiative should not affect the work being done on the development of the Haitian National Police.

However, the police is only one of the components of the justice sector that require further reform. The Haitian authorities need to carefully balance capacity development with enhanced civilian oversight. Equally important are the continued efforts of the international community, multilateral agencies, Haiti's regional partners and individual States in supporting long-term security and development in the country.

We recognize that considerable national, regional and international efforts have been made to combat cholera. On 13 July the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/161, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti. Ukraine has responded to the Secretary-General's appeal and has contributed to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

We share the concerns about sexual exploitation and abuse related to the United Nations presence in Haiti that were raised during the Council's visit to the country in June. Having signed last month with the Secretary-General the Voluntary Compact regarding that problem, Ukraine is strongly committed to a policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse for all peacekeepers and United Nations staff, uniformed or civilian.

To conclude, no progress could have been achieved without strong will on the part of the Haitian people. While facing many political, economic and social challenges, as well as creeping natural disasters, they have demonstrated remarkable resilience in rebuilding the country, despite all odds. We express our sincere congratulations to them. Ukraine remains a committed partner for Haiti in its endeavour to move forward on the path to sustainable peace and development and to build "one Haiti for all Haitians", as President Moise said in his inauguration speech.

Mr. Skau (Sweden): I associate myself with the statement that will be made by the observer of the European Union later this morning.

Let me begin by joining others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for her final report to the Council and for the diligence and professionalism that she and all the staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) have shown as they carried out their mission to support the people of Haiti. We really appreciate their work.

I would also take the opportunity to pay tribute once again to the many United Nations staff members who lost their lives serving with MINUSTAH, including my very close friend Kai Buchholz, who died in the tragic earthquake of 2010. Kai was a fun, caring and clever friend and an exceptionally dedicated and professional United Nations colleague, and I miss him very much indeed.

The conclusion of the mandate of MINUSTAH on 15 October and the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) mark an important milestone for Haiti. During the 13 years of MINUSTAH's mandate, the Haitian people have made significant progress in the consolidation of democracy, as well as security and stability. We commend Haiti for that progress, which has opened a window of opportunity for Haiti's future. However, challenges remain. President Moise and his Government have set out some important priorities, namely, to improve economic development, infrastructure, resilience, security, the rule of law, respect for human rights and national dialogue. The Government must now spare no effort in delivering on those commitments.

The rule of law should continue to be a top priority for the Government. The strengthening of the Haitian National Police and a continued focus on judicial reform, including fighting corruption, will also be absolutely crucial for inclusive socioeconomic development and the creation of better conditions for private investment. It is important that all actors, including national authorities, political parties, civil society and the private sector, work together towards that end. Previous experience has shown the important role that policing plays in providing a bridge between security and development in transition processes. Sweden currently contributes 10 police officers to MINUSTAH and will contribute the same number to MINUJUSTH.

As Haiti moves forward to address its challenges, the partnership between Haiti, bilateral donors and the United Nations needs to evolve so as to provide the most appropriate model of support in the spirit of sustaining peace and supporting inclusive socioeconomic development. As more and more tasks are transitioned from the United Nations Mission to the United Nations country team, the international community must also step up and ensure that the United Nations agencies have adequate resources to effectively carry out their important roles.

No society can reach its full potential without the full, equal and effective participation of women. As the Secretary-General notes in his report (S/2017/840), more efforts are needed to protect and promote women's rights in Haiti. The important work undertaken by MINUSTAH on gender mainstreaming and against sexual and gender-based violence must not be lost. It is important that MINUJUSTH continue to integrate

gender throughout its policies and maintain a strategic focus, coordination and budget for gender issues.

We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that it is important that the Haitian authorities put in place binding measures for the application of the constitutional minimum quota of 30 per cent women in public office. The election of more than 30 per cent women at the municipal and local levels is promising and will hopefully act as a springboard for the increased participation of women at the national level as well in future.

We were happy to co-sponsor resolution 71/161, in support of the Secretary-General's new approach to eradicate cholera and build resilience in Haiti. Sweden is currently exploring how to best support the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund and we encourage others to consider contributing to the Trust Fund as well, so as to collectively bring to an end cholera in Haiti.

The people of Haiti have made huge progress in rebuilding their country over the past 14 years, not least by overcoming the devastation caused by the earthquake in 2010. We must continue to stand with them. Sweden will remain a committed partner for Haiti as the country begins a newchapter.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of France.

France associates itself with the statements to be made later by the observer of the European Union and by the representative of Peru, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

With just a few days remaining until the closure of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), France commends the work done over the past 13 years by the United Nations, and especially the tireless efforts of the Special Representatives and their teams. We also acknowledge the extraordinary commitment of the troop-contributing countries. Our thoughts go to the men and women who lost their lives while serving in MINUSTAH, especially during the earthquake of 2010 and in particular, Special Representative Hédi Annabi, who died in that tragic event.

In following up on MINUSTAH's remarkable work, the capacity-building and professionalization of the Haitian National Police must remain a priority. The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), which will take the reins on 16 October, must build on the success already achieved in order to fulfil the objectives set out in resolution 2350 (2017) — strengthening the rule of law, supporting the Haitian National Police and monitoring the human rights situation. The new Mission must also take into account the needs of the Haitian authorities and civil society and continue to support Haiti on its path to development. In that regard, special attention must be paid to justice. Progress in the area of the rule of law is intrinsically linked to strengthening the professionalism and independence of the judiciary, establishing a legal framework that meets international standards, particularly in the area of criminal justice, and implementing a prison system that is compatible with the country's needs and respects the rights of inmates.

The issue of human rights will have an especially significant role to play in the new Mission. No political, social or economic reform can succeed without taking human rights into account from conception right up through implementation. The consolidation of democratic institutions also depends on this, and we hope that MINUJUSTH will regularly report back to the Council on the latest developments in that field.

It is solely up to the Haitian authorities and the sovereign people of Haiti to establish their political priorities for the years to come. By modifying its presence, the United Nations has shown its willingness to continue assisting Haiti and responding to its new needs. It is not trying to take the place of its leaders or stage a hasty withdrawal; on the contrary, MINUJUSTH will give the relationship between Haiti and its partner countries new momentum. We have every faith that the Haitian authorities will take full advantage of this opportunity. This is an essential stage as we transition from an assistance-focused approach to one centred on sustainable development. In addition to MINUJUSTH, the country team will have an equally important role to play in its future developments.

I would like to conclude my statement by paying tribute to Ms. Sandra Honoré, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, as well as to all MINUSTAH personnel, and by expressing our full support and solidarity to the great people of Haiti.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti, and it gives me great pleasure to welcome him.

Mr. Régis (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the President for inviting the Government of Haiti to participate in this special meeting of the Security Council devoted to considering the final report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/840) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), presented to us by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, whose mandate comes to a close on 15 October in accordance with resolution 2350 (2017) of 13 April.

The report is particularly significant because the Secretary-General, with the acute sense of reality that we know he possesses, provides a meticulous and coherent assessment of MINUSTAH during its 13 years in Haiti and draws valuable lessons from it for future peacekeeping operations. He also offers an objective analysis of the recent developments in the country's political and economic situation and its immediate and long-term challenges. He also welcomes the new directions that the country is taking, as well as the opportunities arising from the restoration of its political stability. The report notes that

> "Eight months after the President of Haiti, Jovenel Moïse, assumed office, the country continues to take steps to further consolidate its democracy and stability". (*S/2017/840, para. 2*)

The Haitian Government welcomes the Secretary-General's appreciation for that progress, which all observers have acknowledged. That progress is the result of the firm determination of the President of the Republic and the Government to strengthen the rule of law and democracy, strengthen State institutions and ensure the promotion and protection of human rights, while at the same time implementing essential structural reforms that will enable our national institutions to cope with recurring crises and deal with our many and complex development challenges.

In that regard, as the Secretary-General rightly underscored,

> "The Government continues to assume greater leadership over the development agenda, as evidenced by the 'Caravan of Change' programme and by investments designed to strengthen the social and economic infrastructure." (*ibid., para. 23*)

That approach also encompasses the fight against corruption, which the President has made a top priority for his national programme of action.

The Haitian Government has also taken due note of certain areas of concern raised in the report, particularly the judicial system's limited progress, lengthy delays in the adoption of certain crucial legislative reforms and persistent concerns related to human rights, especially the issue of prolonged preventive detention and overcrowding in prisons. The Government has given its full assurances that it will focus on those issues and on finding solutions to them. It is fully behind the Secretary-General's call for an inclusive national dialogue aimed at seeking solutions that will enable us to strengthen social and political cohesion, consolidate democratic institutions and re-start efforts to achieve a sustainable economy.

With regard to the armed forces, the Government shares the Secretary-General's view on the opportunity to make their remobilization a unifying national project that can enjoy the people's confidence. That is the approach we intend to take, in line with the provisions of the Constitution on re-establishing a national army that will be essentially focused on development.

The Haitian Government subscribes to the report's conclusions on the assessment of MINUSTAH. Even if the progress it has made can be considered limited in certain cases, the Mission has succeeded in fulfilling its three key objectives as outlined in resolution 1542 (2004) — security and stability, support for the political process and building the rule of law and promoting human rights. Today Haiti's situation is radically different from what it was in 2004, when, according to the Security Council, it constituted a threat to international peace and security in the region, justifying the deployment of a peacekeeping and stabilization mission. As the report emphasizes, political and institutional stability is now being strengthened. Haiti is fully capable of ensuring security and providing a secure and stable environment conducive to a smoothly running political process and the revitalization of investment, the economy and development. An end to instability and political uncertainty, the restoration of the rule of law, the peaceful renewal of democratic institutions and the strengthening of the capacities of various State institutions, including the judicial system and the Haitian National Police, are all valuable achievements that must be protected and consolidated.

Similarly, during its 13 years in Haiti, MINUSTAH has implemented a wide range of valuable projects and initiatives, including 1,788 quick-impact projects in various areas, such as the rule of law, good governance, public infrastructure, revenue-generating activities, environmental protection, drinking-water supplies, as well as other social and humanitarian activities. In particular, the Secretary-General's points to our community violence reduction programme as exemplary and rightly urges that it serve as a model for future United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Of course, within this assessment, we cannot ignore the major shadow that has been cast on our situation by the cholera epidemic, which has brought thousands of deaths and for which the United Nations has finally admitted responsibility, recognizing the role it played in triggering a disease that has caused such terrible suffering for the Haitian people. In that regard, the Government of Haiti would like to commend the Secretary-General's determination and personal commitment to carry out what he calls a moral duty by effectively implementing a new approach to the fight against cholera. The United Nations

> "has a moral responsibility to the victims, as well as to support Haiti in overcoming the epidemic and in building sound water, sanitation and health-care systems". (*S/2017/840, para. 52*)

The Government of Haiti associates itself with the urgent appeal to Member States to ensure that the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund is finally granted the necessary resources to fulfil all of the commitments made and implement the two components of the plan of action against cholera without delay. It is high time that was done.

Today, there is peace, security and political stability in Haiti, which is reason to rejoice. However, we are all aware that much remains to be done. The report highlights a number of deficiencies, gaps to be filled, and delays and challenges to be overcome. For its part, the Haitian Government is working hard to remedy that situation. But this is a long-term project that will require continued, persistent action. That is why the Government of Haiti and the Security Council have agreed to establish a mission to consolidate the achievements of MINUSTAH in three main areas — strengthening the rule of law, with a particular focus on improving the justice system; developing the Haitian National Police and promoting and protecting human rights. The new United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is the expression of that new framework of cooperation between the United Nations and Haiti, aimed at consolidating the achievements made so far. However, I should emphasize that MINUJUSTH will carry out its mandate in a context that clearly no longer reflects the traditional threats to international peace cited in resolution 1542 (2004), which created MINUSTAH. We therefore hope that this new reality will be taken into account in the next Security Council resolution on the subject and in the new agreement that will govern MINUJUSTH's presence in Haiti as of 16 October, which is essentially one of technical cooperation.

Stabilization in Haiti has now been achieved. As MINUSTAH's mandate ends, now is the moment to hail its contribution to consolidating civil peace, democracy and security, establishing the rule of law and promoting human rights in Haiti. The Government of Haiti would like to express its gratitude to members of the Security Council, the Secretariat and all of the entities of the United Nations system, as well as all Member States, especially troop-contributing countries, for their participation and ongoing support for the Mission. We also thank and congratulate Ms. Honoré, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, for her outstanding work and dedication to the cause of peace.

If I might deviate from my written text, I would like to salute the memory of Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, and his deputy, Mr. Da Costa, as well as the United Nations peacekeeping soldiers who met a tragic death during the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 in Haiti. On a personal note, I met with Mr. Annabi, who came to lecture at a conference held at an academic institution I directed, two months before the earthquake.

The country is now turning over a new leaf. In that context, the Government of Haiti believes that cooperation with the United Nations system should be expanded, revitalized and, above all, better adapted to current realities, while focusing on the country's true needs, within the framework of a genuine strategy for achieving sustainable peace that will enable Haitian institutions to take ownership of the tools needed to ensure peace, security and stability and consolidate the rule of law, while resolutely addressing the

country's economic and social modernization and sustainable development.

As MINUJUSTH prepares to begin its mandate, the Haitian Government strongly hopes that the new Mission will make a lasting contribution to our efforts to meet the challenge of sustaining peace, which goes hand in hand with growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Meza-Cuadra (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, which includes Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Guatemala, the United States, Uruguay and my own country, Peru.

We thank the President for organizing this debate to discuss the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2017/840) on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The report covers the main events that have occurred since the publication on 12 July of the previous report (S/2017/604) and the progress that has been made as MINUSTAH comes to a close. It also covers the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

The Group of Friends welcomes the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, and thanks her for her detailed briefing. As MINUSTAH's mandate comes to an end, we would like to thank Ms. Honoré, particularly for her role in supporting the political process in Haiti, professionalizing the police and maintaining a safe and stable environment.

The Group acknowledges the work of all the previous Special Representatives who have contributed to the stabilization of Haiti and wishes to pay special tribute to the former Special Representative for Haiti, Mr. Hédi Annabi, who gave his life in the service of peacekeeping during the earthquake of 2010. The Group also recognizes the important role that MINUSTAH has played in guaranteeing the stability and security of Haiti, expresses its deep appreciation to the staff of MINUSTAH and to all Member States that have contributed to the Mission, and pays homage to those who were injured or lost their lives in the performance of their duty.

The strengthening of the rule of law and democratic institutions and the establishment of a political culture conducive to democratic stability and the improvement of socioeconomic conditions are key elements for achieving greater security, stability and prosperity in Haiti. The Group of Friends reaffirms the primary responsibility of the national Government for implementing its strategies for peacebuilding and peacekeeping in order to address the interconnected nature of Haiti's challenges. The Group of Friends acknowledges that, eight months after President Jovenel Moise took office, Haiti continues to take steps to further consolidate its democracy and stability, and we encourage the Haitian authorities to conduct indirect elections to form municipal, departmental and interdepartmental councils and assemblies, as provided for in the Constitution. The Group also notes that the overall security situation has remained relatively stable and has not been affected by the ongoing withdrawal of MINUSTAH's troops and the reduction of the United Nations Police (UNPOL) presence.

The Group believes that strengthening the Haitian National Police (HNP) is one of the most important contributions that the successor Mission will make to further consolidate the stabilization of Haiti and in that regard welcomes the continued increase in its capacity to ensure public order and provide security to Haitian citizens and takes note of the objectives of its strategic development plan for 2017-2021. We have noted the implementation of a revised approach to mentoring and counselling conceived as part of the Mission transition strategy towards MINUJUSTH and observe that UNPOL has continued to work with the HNP in order to strengthen its capacity to handle the issue of sexual and gender-based violence.

The Group of Friends underscores the importance of national ownership and reiterates the vitality of the commitment of the Government of Haiti to strengthen the rule of law and continue to make progress in the justice and security sectors. The Group of Friends commends the efforts of the Government of Haiti to address a number of major problems facing the country, including by intensifying its flagship programme, the Caravan of Change. The Group agrees with the call of the Secretary-General for moving forward on a joint legislative agenda and underlines the need for MINUJUSTH to support the Government in achieving progress in the performance of the judiciary.

The Group of Friends reiterates that there can be no true stability or sustainable development in Haiti without strengthened democratic institutions and credible democratic processes. In that context, the Group emphasizes the importance of promoting the rule of law through the strengthening of Haitian institutions and encourages the Government of Haiti to advance in the fields of justice and human rights, including the empowerment of women and their full participation in decision-making.

The Group of Friends recognizes that strengthening national human rights institutions as well as respecting human rights, including respect for women and children and due process, combating crime and sexual and gender-based violence, putting an end to impunity and prolonged pretrial detention and providing accountability, are essential to safeguarding the rule of law and security in Haiti, including access to justice. In that regard, the Group takes note of the conclusion of the Secretary-General's report that prolonged pretrial detention and prison overcrowding remain a serious human rights problem.

The Group of Friends reaffirms its solidarity with and commitment to the people and the Government of Haiti in their pursuit of stability, reconstruction, recovery, socioeconomic development and democratic consolidation, and recognizes that Haiti continues to face multiple development challenges that require the implementation of structural reforms.

The Group of Friends welcomes the General Assembly's resolution 71/161 on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, which aims to renew the Organization's efforts to eliminate cholera transmission and care for victims of the disease. In that regard, the Group of Friends would like to take this opportunity to invite Member States, regional, international and bilateral donors, financial institutions, the private sector and other donors to provide greater voluntary financial support and other appropriate support for the new approach. We note that the United Nations country team will be responsible for implementing the new approach, with the coordination of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and welcome the 10-year national plan for the elimination of cholera as the basis of the new Government's policy on the issue, as well as the renewed engagement of the Government with the United Nations and other international partners to that end.

The Group of Friends notes that although significant progress has been made, Haiti continues to face significant humanitarian challenges as well as a vulnerability and particular exposure to natural hazards. In addition, the Group affirms that progress in Haiti's reconstruction and social and economic development, supported by effective and coordinated international assistance and an increase in its institutional capacity to benefit from that assistance, is crucial to achieving sustainable stability, and reiterates the need for security to be supported by sustainable development, efforts in which the Government of Haiti will play a leadership role with the help of the United Nations country team.

The Group of Friends welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 5 October submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2350 (2017). We believe that MINUSTAH has succeeded in stabilizing Haiti and that it is time to begin the transition to a new United Nations presence, focused on strengthening Haiti's rule-of-law institutions, providing support and capacity-building for the National Police and participating in human rights monitoring and reporting, as set forth in paragraph 66 of the Secretary-General's report.

The Group notes that MINUSTAH has continued to implement its comprehensive withdrawal as well as the joint MINUSTAH-country team transition plan, with a view to ensuring a gradual transfer of tasks and assets to MINUJUSTH, the Haitian authorities, the country team and other partners, so that the Mission can close on 15 October and so that the mandatory core areas, including the good-offices function and the commitment to the rule of law, justice reforms, police development and human rights addressed by MINUSTAH, will be taken up to MINUJUSTH on 16 October, while United Nations support in the areas of governance will be implemented through the country team, if resources permit.

The Group of Friends also welcomes the fact that MINUJUSTH will work closely with the country team to ensure a smoother transfer of the tasks necessary for carrying out the reform of the rule of law.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Mexico.

Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank France for convening today's debate and to reaffirm the Government of Mexico's gratitude to Ms. Sandra Honoré Braithwaite, Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in

Haiti (MINUSTAH), and her team, for their tireless work over the years and their proven commitment to the Haitian people.

The winding down of MINUSTAH and the establishment of the new United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) are positive developments for Haiti. Mexico, as part of the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, has witnessed the iron determination of the Haitian Government and people to build prosperity in their country. The United Nations should support the Haitian Government in those efforts, in accordance with the national priorities that Haiti itself has defined.

This new stage is a rare opportunity to test the concepts behind United Nations coordination of peace, humanitarian assistance and development on the ground. We expect the United Nations country team in Haiti to have impeccable coordination, consistency, efficiency and transparency. Haiti represents a unique theatre in which the United Nations system can show that it is possible to make the transition from conflict management and humanitarian assistance to coordinating a truly sustainable peace conducive to the development and fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations has a moral and economic debt to the Haitian people. We must find an appropriate response to the problems caused by the terrible cholera epidemic so that we can care for the families of the victims and those affected by the epidemic. General Assembly resolution 71/161, on the new United Nations approach to cholera in Haiti, recognizes the Organization's responsibility to the Haitian people. In that context, I am pleased to inform the Security Council that Mexico will allocate 100 per cent of its unencumbered balance from MINUSTAH to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. I urge the international community to increase its support for the fulfilment of the mandate of the new Mission, bearing in mind that its success will depend to a large extent on continued support from those who have been part of MINUSTAH and from new contributors.

The two years of Mexico's participation in MINUSTAH enabled my country to support the efforts of the United Nations in Haiti and the Mexican armed forces to gain experience and build their capacities for peace operations in a new phase of Mexico's relationship with the United Nations. My country will continue to participate in MINUJUSTH, as we believe that it responds to the important issue of adapting peacekeeping operations' mandates to the political and security context on the ground. If we are to strengthen institutions in Haiti, particularly as regards developing the operational capacities of its National Police, as well as making progress in enhancing the rule of law and the protection of human rights, full international support for MINUJUSTH will continue to be essential, and Mexico therefore wishes to contribute police personnel to the Mission.

I would like to conclude by paying tribute to the efforts of the thousands of men and women who gave their all to MINUSTAH, some of them losing their lives. I reiterate Mexico's belief in the importance of making sustainable peace the guiding thread for the effectiveness and coherence that we expect from the work of the United Nations in building and maintaining international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Argentina.

Mr. García Moritán (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): Argentina associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, and would like to make the following brief additional comments.

We thank Special Representative Sandra Honoré for her presentation of the latest report of the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 2350 (2017) (S/2017/840). As the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) draws to a close, we are grateful for her commitment and professionalism at its helm and for her work to ensure the stability of Haiti. We also welcome the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis, and want to highlight the joint efforts of the Haitian authorities and MINUSTAH to build lasting stability and a better future for the country.

Argentina pays tribute to the personnel of the various countries that have deployed troops to MINUSTAH during the 13 years of its existence — men and women, civilians, military and police — as their contribution to the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate. We wish to highlight the invaluable efforts of the nearly 13,000 Argentine army troops deployed since 2004, including an army battalion, an air-force unit and a mobile field hospital, which recently left the country, as well as

the 900 officers of the Argentine National Police who participated in the Mission. We especially remember all who gave their lives to the service of peacekeeping and security in Haiti, including four from Argentina.

We agree with the assessment of the Mission's legacy in the Secretary-General's report, highlighting its significant achievements despite the enormous difficulties it has faced, which included one earthquake and six devastating hurricanes. After 13 years and despite many persistent challenges, MINUSTAH leaves behind a relatively stable country with a democratically elected President, three functioning branches of Government and a window of opportunity for making progress towards sustainable development. During that time, among other things, the Mission supported the efforts of the Haitian Government to strengthen its rule-of-law institutions — the police and the justice system in particular — and to implement the various human rights mechanisms. It also helped 6 million Haitians through violence-reduction programmes and 7 million through quick-impact projects, in line with priorities identified by the Haitian authorities.

Argentina supports the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on cases of sexual abuse and exploitation in Haiti, as well as the Organization's new approach to cholera in that country, with the hope that the United Nations Mission in Support of Justice in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) will contribute to implementing and monitoring those policies, in close collaboration with the Haitian authorities. In that regard, my country recently signed the Voluntary Compact on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and has made a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Argentina notes the continuing progress that has been made in closing MINUSTAH and establishing MINUJUSTH, in particular as it relates to the future implementation of the new Mission's important mandate to assist in consolidating the country's rule-of-law institutions, strengthening and professionalizing the Haitian National Police (HNP) and promoting and protecting human rights. In that regard, and in addition to continuing our bilateral cooperation with Haiti, we will continue to contribute trained police personnel to the new Mission, in accordance with our ability to do so and the specific requirements set forth in the new police advisory and oversight programme, in the framework of the Secretary-General's transition plan, as well as the Haitian National Police's 2017-2021 strategic development plan. In that connection, notwithstanding any sovereign decisions that may be taken by Haiti on issues related to its security and defence, we are confident that the planned development of the armed forces in the country will not interfere with the effective implementation of the HNP's strategic development plan or involve funds originally earmarked for development.

In line with the Secretary-General's latest report, we welcome Haiti's involvement with international human rights mechanisms and encourage State institutions, human rights institutions and civil society to cooperate extensively with the human rights component of MINUJUSTH.

I would like to conclude by once again reiterating Argentina's commitment to the Haitian people and acknowledging the work of Ms. Sandra Honoré and all the military, police and civil personnel of MINUSTAH. We also honour the memory of those who gave their lives in fulfilling their noble mission to help Haiti make progress on its path to sustainable peace and development.

Ms. Mejía Vélez (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank France and you personally, Madam Ambassador, for having convened this meeting, which marks the official closure of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) after 13 long years.

We have mixed feelings today, because now we can say that it is possible to have United Nations missions that conclude their mandates and move into new phases, as in this case, where MINUSTAH is transitioning to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) in order to strengthen Haitian institutions and be able to respond adequately to the challenges that all democracies face, as Ambassador Régis just noted in his statement.

I would echo the words of appreciation expressed here in connection with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré. She has brought honour to her post and to her gender through her efforts for the Mission, her leadership and her commitment. Above all I would stress, as the Ambassador just stated, the work she has done in recent years, which has promoted coordinated efforts with the national authorities, the Government and Haitian society, including in difficult periods of political instability, in which the commitment of all sectors and national ownership were key. I thank Ms. Honoré and

her team and all her predecessors, some of whom paid with their lives in that effort.

Colombia endorses the statement delivered by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti. We are convinced of the value of the role played by MINUSTAH in guaranteeing and ensuring stability and security in the country up to a point of no return, whose logical consequence was to develop and transition towards a quest for justice and the strengthening of the rule of law. As President Juan Manuel Santos said in this very Chamber when we held the presidency of the Council in 2012, this is a natural transition, a transition from a peacekeeping operation to a genuine operation focused on development.

The actions undertaken to ensure that the Haitian people have a strengthened and professional national police force have the full support of Latin America, as has been made clear here. The Colombian Government will continue to contribute our men and women police officers and to provide training in our country, focusing in particular on the training of Haitian women police officers, who will undoubtedly play a key role in the coexistence and security of their communities, within the framework of the strategic development plan established by the Haitian National Police.

If we all pool our efforts to preserve the progress made and overcome the tremendous challenges and obstacles that remain, particularly in the area of economic and social development, with the ongoing support of the country team, we are sure that the brave people of Haiti, with whom Colombia has stood since their independence, will be able to reach their maximum potential.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Mr. João Pedro Vale de Almeida, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Vale de Almeida (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. I thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2017/840) and Ms. Honoré for her briefing and her work as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

The candidate countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the European Free Trade Association country of Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

On 13 April, the Security Council adopted resolution 2350 (2017), which extended for the last time the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) by a further six months. The resolution contains the legal framework for the transition to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), whose role will be to strengthen the police and the rule of law, and to defend and promote human rights.

MINUSTAH played a key role in the field of citizen security in Haiti, including by ensuring security during particularly difficult times, such as during the recent elections.

The long period of institutional instability that has characterized the political process in Haiti finally seems to be behind us, at least with regard to the electoral process. This has made possible the transparent and credible election of a President who, despite a very low turnout, obtained a broad majority of votes. The National Assembly was also renewed, and the new Government's programme has been given a vote of confidence. Despite major difficulties and weaknesses in the system, we congratulate the country on its return to constitutional order based on the will of voters. This was urgently needed in order for Haiti to be able to address the numerous political, economic, social and environmental challenges facing the country.

However, the return to constitutional order is not enough to guarantee the democratic stability and the development that the country needs. Bold reforms of the Constitution, the electoral system and the judicial system are needed to restore the confidence of the Haitian people in their democracy and in the political system in its entirety. It is particularly important to ensure genuine access to equitable justice for all. Signs of a willingness to reform have been shown, but they must be pursued, and the historic opportunity offered by this period of stability and legitimacy must not be lost.

As in recent years, the efforts of all parties to guarantee the stability and security of Haitian citizens continue to be crucial elements for the process of democratic consolidation. A thorough and consensual

reform of the electoral system is necessary to avoid fresh crises and to regain the confidence of the population.

The European Union remains a faithful partner of the Republic of Haiti and remains determined to support the country in this sensitive phase, in consultation with other partners, including as part of this indispensable reform process. We would also like to recognize the presence here of the Permanent Representative of Haiti.

Resolution 2350 (2017) closes out MINUSTAH on 15 October and replaces it with a reduced mission, MINUJUSTH, which focuses on supporting the Haitian police. The European Union believes that the security situation in Haiti remains very fragile. We therefore deem it essential to complete the strengthening and professionalizing of the Haitian National Police. During the transition period, it will be key to ensure continuity by preparing for it thoroughly. The security and well-being of citizens and the stability of the country are at stake.

In conclusion, allow me to express once again the gratitude of the European Union for the contribution made by MINUSTAH in terms of security and consolidating democracy and the rule of law in Haiti. We welcome the preparations for a transition, which must be designed carefully so as to ensure the continuity of our joint efforts. The series of events that will culminate in making the Haitian State fully responsible for the security of its citizens and civilian protection will need to be clearly defined, planned and implemented, with particular attention paid to respect for human rights in the security sphere and access to impartial justice for all. It is essential that the Haitian police and judicial system be adequately prepared, including in these key areas, for the time when they will have to assume all the tasks currently undertaken by the United Nations Mission.

The European Union, together with the United Nations and the international community, will support the Haitian authorities in consolidating their commitment and their efforts aimed at ensuring a better future of peace, democracy and well-being for all the Haitian people. It is also important that the United Nations apply to future missions best practices and lessons learned from the missions that, as MINUSTAH is doing, are now drawing down.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Venezuela.

Mr. Ramírez Carreño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to begin by congratulating the delegation of France on assuming the presidency of the Council for this month. I also congratulate the delegation of Ethiopia for its leadership last month. Likewise, we welcome the presence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Ms. Sandra Honoré, whose years of work at the helm of that extraordinary mission were guided by firm commitment and dedication to strengthen the stability and the development of the Haitian people.

Haiti occupies a special place in the minds of Venezuelans. Both nations are united by deep historical, political and cultural ties that stem from the struggle for independence. Haiti and the Haitian revolution served as an inspiration to our nineteenth-century patriots and to the Liberator, Simón Bolivar, who, 200 years ago, was supported by President Alexandre Pétion and the Haitians in the heat of our war of independence. Our country is fully committed to the social development of a free and sovereign Haiti. Since the beginning of our Bolivarian revolution, with the presidency of Commander Hugo Chávez Frías, our cooperation with Haiti has expanded and deepened in an extraordinary way, and that cooperation is built on the principles of solidarity and social justice. A deep sense of solidarity motivates Venezuela's aid to Haiti. We recognize the remarkable efforts made by Haiti in recent years to promote peace, stability and development. Despite the progress achieved, serious challenges remain as a result of prolonged crises and numerous natural disasters, which have had a negative impact on the political, economic and social life of that brotherly country and require the sustained cooperation of the international community.

The colonial Powers made Haiti pay dearly for its freedom and independence. Throughout the nineteenth century, the Haitian people were forced to pay exorbitant sums to the former colonial Power. Moreover, the entire twentieth century was marked by military interventions and brutal dictatorships. Without a doubt, all of that has negatively affected the stability of the country. It is necessary to remember those events as the root causes of the instability throughout the history of that brotherly country in order to understand why the Haitian people have sunk into a deep crisis of political instability and a dramatic situation of poverty and social injustice.

The fight against poverty and for social justice in Haiti, the poorest country in our America, still requires solidarity and direct support for stable assistance mechanisms, in addition to cooperation, in order to address the challenges and structural problems in that country. For example, according to data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, between 2014 and 2016, more than 5 million Haitians, equivalent to 47 per cent of the population, were undernourished. It is for that reason that cooperation must be focused on the social-development agenda, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those dealing with the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities, with emphasis on the consequences of the disasters caused by climate change in the Caribbean.

In recent years, Haiti has experienced the effects of natural disasters, which have had a devastating effect on its population and its economic and institutional structure. The aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake and the passage of Hurricane Matthew in 2016 continue to be felt and have aggravated even further the overall situation in the country, particularly in the humanitarian sector. In that regard, and as we have done in similar disasters in the recent past, Venezuela heeded the request of the Haitian authorities to provide immediate and ongoing assistance to help overcome the difficulties. That is the essence of solidarity and cooperation among brotherly nations. For that reason, we will continue to provide support, through the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement and the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America, for all initiatives and projects prioritized by the Haitian authorities in the areas of social development, humanitarian assistance, construction, rehabilitation and the maintenance of infrastructure and education, which have had a positive impact on the people. It is worth mentioning that since the beginning of the Bolivarian Revolution, Venezuela's cooperation with Haiti has been aimed at empowering the Haitian State through the strengthening of institutions, as demonstrated by the fact that all funds given by Venezuela for cooperation to Haiti are administered by the authorities of that Caribbean nation. Likewise, since 2005, within the framework of the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, our country continues to provide 100 per cent of the country's fuel-supply needs and 20 per cent of the country's electricity production, as well as various initiatives and projects prioritized by the Haitian Government, which, in recent years, have had a positive impact on the reconstruction efforts in Port-au-Prince and on the economic and social development of that sister nation.

We remain concerned about the impact of the outbreak and spread of cholera in Haiti since 2010. We commend the courage of the United Nations in recognizing its responsibility for the initial spread of the virus and in demonstrating its commitment to providing direct assistance to the victims of the epidemic. That is why it is necessary to strengthen stable mechanisms of cooperation so as to be able to put together a timely and effective response, with a view to strengthening Haiti's national plan for eliminating cholera by 2022, and in order to contribute to a transition from emergency humanitarian interventions to development programmes in the country. In that regard, we strongly support the new approach of the United Nations to combat the spread of cholera. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/161, Venezuela made a financial contribution to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. That contribution was intended to support the Secretary-General's initiative to continue to address both immediate and long-term needs in dealing with the cholera epidemic in that sister Caribbean nation.

Now that the work of MINUSTAH has concluded, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, which will succeed it with new functions, will be focused on supporting the Haitian National Police, promoting the rule of law and strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights. We believe that the United Nations should continue to support the Haitian people and work in close coordination with the Haitian Government on the basis of its national priorities and in strict adherence to the principles of the sovereignty, independence and self-determination of that country. In the process of strengthening institutions, we should support the possibility of creating a professional armed force with the mandate to safeguard the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of that nation.

Venezuela recognizes and wants to pay tribute to the performance of MINUSTAH and its entire staff, civilian and military, as well as the troops contributed by various Latin American nations, in particular Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and Guatemala. In that regard, Venezuela supports the initiative of the Government of President Jovenel Moise to promote the

process of national dialogue and constitutional reform, as well as his initiative to address a number of important issues facing the country through the establishment of several presidential commissions composed of representatives of various national sectors. We consider it vital to continue with the strategic development plan for Haitian National Police for the period 2017-2021.

In conclusion, our country will continue to be a part of regional efforts within the framework of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our America and the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement, and within the framework of United Nations cooperation with the Haitian people, with a view to helping that country overcome the economic and social problems that have for decades affected the brotherly Haitian people in the land of Pétion. Today more than ever, such cooperation is necessary in order to contribute to political stability and strengthened institutions in that Caribbean nation.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Barros Melet (Chile): Chile associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti. I would also like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

We thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her briefing, and we take this opportunity to reiterate Chile's gratitude for her tireless efforts to achieve a stable, democratic and prosperous Haiti. Her commitment to the Haitian people and to the values of the Organization have been exemplary. We also welcome the presence today of the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Ambassador Denis Régis.

Chile began its support to Haiti in early March 2004, with 340 troops, the largest contingent that Chile had ever deployed to a United Nations peacekeeping mission. Over the past 13 years, the total Chilean presence in Haiti has amounted to more than 12,000 men and women, including troops and police officers. As President Bachelet said when she greeted the last of our troops on their return to Santiago, all the women and men who were part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) throughout the 13 years of its operation have been ambassadors for their countries, working together with our Haitian brothers on behalf of their countries and their people. Chile and the international community will never forget the sacrifices of those who served this Mission on behalf of peace and security.

While the military presence of the United Nations in Haiti has come to an end, the principles that led us there are as valid as ever. Chile, through its support and cooperation, together with that of other actors, will continue to build on the achievements of the past 13 years, particularly in the area of cooperation for development and in accordance with Haitian priorities. Indeed, it is not that the United Nations is leaving Haiti, but rather that its presence is changing in order to launch a new phase, with new challenges to the consolidation of peace and development in Haiti. We hope that MINUSTAH's successor, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), will reap the fruits of MINUSTAH in supporting the Haitian people and make a concrete contribution to enabling the rule of law and stability to reign.

The United Nations country team will also play a key role in supporting Haiti in its economic and social development and strengthening its institutions and its respect for human rights. In that regard, Chile welcomes the appointment of Ms. Josette Sheeran as the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, and assures her of our support for her important work in designing a comprehensive strategy for implementing the Organization's new approach to combating cholera in Haiti and supporting Haitian efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We should also mention the importance of continuing to strengthen the Haitian National Police, which has a key role to play in consolidating Haiti's stability. In that regard, we note the campaign launched by the National Police, with the support of MINUSTAH and in cooperation with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Rights, to strengthen the recruitment of women, and we urge the authorities to continue to support women's equal participation in the security sector, as well as in the relevant decision-making bodies.

In conclusion, we reiterate Chile's commitment to the country and the people of Haiti and reaffirm the importance of continuing to support that sisterly nation in its responsibility for its own development. We also acknowledge the work of all the previous Special Representatives. We thank Brazil, which has contributed military personnel during all those

years, as well as all the military, police and civilian personnel of MINUSTAH, and we pay tribute to the memory of those who gave their lives in fulfilling this noble mission.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mr. Giacomelli da Silva (Brazil) (*spoke in French*): I thank France for convening today's debate. I commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her detailed briefing and reiterate my Government's appreciation for her leadership. I also thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti, Mr. Denis Régis, for his statement.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the efforts of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) to support that country's political process over the past 13 years. MINUSTAH has demonstrated the potential that innovative approaches offer and that could serve as a model for future peacekeeping operations elsewhere in the world. Its positive efforts include its coordination between civilian and military personnel on the ground, its community outreach strategies aimed at building trust, and the remarkable role played by women in all areas of the stabilization process.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of tools such as the community-violence reduction programme and the quick-impact projects that have played an important role in supporting the primary objective of stabilization and have been crucial in strengthening the rule of law in Haiti. As highlighted in the Secretary-General's report (S/2017/840), the Mission has implemented 1,788 such quick-impact projects covering areas as wide-ranging as human rights, the rule of law, good governance, the protection of the environment and the supply of drinking water.

The past 13 years have been a unique and unprecedented experience for Brazil, which has served as commander of MINUSTAH's troops and deployed more than 37,000 soldiers to help the Haitian authorities ensure a stable and secure environment for its inhabitants and rebuild the country following various natural disasters. Brazil's commitment throughout the Mission's mandate was affirmed once again by our troops' decision to temporarily reactivate their operations to support Haitians when Hurricane Irma passed through.

Brazil will continue to support a peacekeeping doctrine that truly contributes to the sustaining peace. We are in favour of integrated mandate approaches that promote stabilization, dialogue, reconciliation, development and human rights. We were pleased to see in the report of the Secretary-General that the planning for the establishment of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is well advanced, in line with the parameters set out in resolution 2350 (2017). We commend the smooth transition of tasks from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH, the Haitian authorities, the country team and other partners, which required close consultations between the Mission's management team and the local authorities.

We would like to emphasize that among MINUJUSTH's many tasks, developing the police force is very important. Although the capacities of the Haitian National Police have improved, that relatively young institution is still facing considerable challenges. We commend the efforts to fully implement its strategic development plan, particularly the goal of increasing the ratio of the number of police officers to the population, as well as the percentage of women in the police force, and we support the Secretary-General's call to international partners to increase their support for the Government of Haiti's efforts in this area.

We agree with the Secretary-General's assessment that further measures are needed to protect and promote women's rights. For example, the role of the Victims' Rights Advocate should be transferred from MINUSTAH to MINUJUSTH in order to address the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse. Sexual violence in peacekeeping operations is a major concern for the United Nations. MINUSTAH has always been very rigorous in dealing with the rare cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, none of which were committed by Brazilian peacekeepers. Brazil reaffirms its commitment to supporting all initiatives aimed at combating such crimes.

We thank the Special Envoy for Haiti for her strategy in the fight against cholera. We take note of the reduction in the number of cases of the disease during the past year. We call on States to redouble their efforts to secure the funds necessary for the implementation of national and international plans aimed at stopping the spread of the disease.

The work of the United Nations in Haiti is not finished. We agree with the Secretary-General's

observation that the success of MINUJUSTH will depend, in large part, on its ability to rapidly establish a relationship of partnership, mutual understanding and cooperation with the Government.

The end of MINUSTAH and the transition to MINUJUSTH represent a step forward in building a culture of peace, but, as stated by the Secretary-General in his report, the security and development of Haiti can be ensured only by the national authorities and the Haitians themselves.

We are paying close attention to recent political developments and call for moderation from all parties at such an important juncture for the country.

Let me conclude by reaffirming Brazil's long-term commitment to and solidarity with Haiti, as well as our confidence in the determination and perseverance of the Haitian people to succeed in their quest for stability, democracy and prosperity.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Jamaica.

Mr. Rattray (Jamaica): I express sincere appreciation to you, Madam, for having convened this timely public debate on the situation in Haiti. I also express my gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Sandra Honoré, for her comprehensive briefing, as well as for her invaluable contributions to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) throughout her tenure.

Both Haiti and the United Nations have arrived at a pivotal juncture of transition from MINUSTAH to its successor, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). Jamaica has long recognized the significant role of peacekeeping in the maintenance of international peace and security and appreciates the role that MINUSTAH has played in supporting Haiti since its inception. We recall in particular the vital relief response that MINUSTAH provided in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. We recognize that the Mission's remit over the years has been wide-ranging, encompassing the critical social, political and developmental needs of Haiti.

As the Secretary-General reported this month, MINUSTAH has recorded many clear accomplishments, such as the implementation of more than 1,700 quick-impact projects, the progress made by the community violence reduction programme in mostly vulnerable and urban areas, the implementation of human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, and the establishment of committees to oversee the implementation of specific treaties, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child. What is of paramount importance at this time, however, is that concerted efforts be made to expand access to justice and that the institutions of the rule of law, including the Haitian national police, be strengthened.

While the range of achievements recorded by MINUSTAH is laudable, now is the time to turn our attention to the consolidation of the gains registered by the Mission over its more than 13 years of operation. We therefore support the international community's commitment to sustaining its active engagement through effective partnership with the Government and the people of Haiti as they proceed on their path towards stabilization and democratic consolidation.

I reiterate Jamaica's strong support for the urgent action that needs to be taken by the international community in order to resolve the health and humanitarian situation caused by the introduction and presence of cholera in Haiti. We recognize that there is no simple solution to this unfortunate situation and appreciate the steps being taken by the United Nations and other partners to address the effects of cholera in Haiti. Jamaica looks forward to the effective implementation of the three-part strategy planned by the United Nations Special Envoy for Haiti, which includes mobilizing funds to address the significant financing deficit that retards the full implementation of the overall response to the critical situation of cholera in Haiti. In that respect, Jamaica was pleased to facilitate, along with Mexico, General Assembly resolution 71/161 B, adopted in July, which called on Member States to voluntarily redirect any unencumbered balances from MINUSTAH to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Mindful of ensuring that residual stabilization needs are afforded priority, we urge that attention be placed on addressing issues surrounding justice reform and the promotion of human rights, including the protection and promotion of women's rights. We note that areas of concern include the prolonged periods of pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding.

As MINUSTAH withdraws, Jamaica recognizes the importance of ensuring that the transition period be executed in close cooperation with the United

Nations country team. The aim is to enable a smooth, careful and progressive transfer of assets and duties to MINUJUSTH, the Haitian authorities and other key stakeholders, in alignment with the on-the-ground needs of Haiti. Jamaica concurs with the observation of the Secretary-General that ultimately, the security, political and development agenda of Haiti can be shaped only by the national authorities and the Haitian population.

I reaffirm the Government of Jamaica's long-term commitment to Haiti and its people as they proceed on the path towards sustainable development.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.